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Attorney Docket No.: P-6866-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KESTEN, Randy et al. Examiner: WIEKLER, AMANDA F.
Serial No.: 09/839,643 Group Art Unit: 3743
Filed: April 20, 2001
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING LOCALIZED CIRCULATORY SYSTEM PRESSURE

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Interview Summary:

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Wiekler for granting and attending the telephone interview, with Applicants' Representative, Mark Cohen, Reg. No. 42,425, on 18 October 2004. In the interview, amended claim 1 was discussed.

Mr. Cohen noted that claim 1 had been amended to cite a "valve element adapted to enable selective permitting blood flow between a first chamber and a second chamber of a heart at a selected pressure threshold". In contrast to amended claim 1, Applicants previously noted that Wilk does not disclose extending a stent between chambers of the heart. Further, Wilk discloses a one-way valve, and does not disclose or suggest selectively permitting blood flow between the heart chambers, nor using selected pressure thresholds for controlling blood

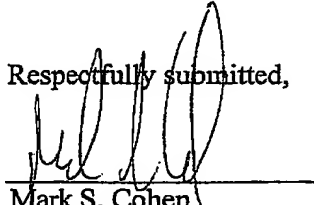
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flow. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment may act to distinguish claim 1 from the Wilk patent, and that a supplementary search may be required.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Statement, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

No fees are due, however, if any fee is due, the undersigned hereby authorizes the United States Patent and Trademark Office to charge the fees to Deposit Account 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: November 18, 2004

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